

## Vesicular stomatitis case in Wyoming

In an effort to keep Washington state free of vesicular stomatitis (VS) in horses, cattle, and other livestock, the Washington State Department of Agriculture has modified livestock import restrictions due to the detection of VS in Wyoming. Officials have increased restrictions on any livestock imported into Washington that have been in a state where vesicular stomatitis has been detected in the past 30 days.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the nation's first case of VS this year on Aug. 17 in a horse east of Casper. The last cases of VS was confirmed in 2005 in several Western states. For information on VS please visit [USDA](#).

Under Washington's livestock import procedures now in effect:

- Equine, bovine and certain other livestock may not enter Washington if the animal has been within 10 miles of a premise where livestock testing positive for vesicular stomatitis have been located within the past 30 days.
- Shippers of livestock such as horses and cattle coming into Washington from a state that has vesicular stomatitis will need to have a pre-entry permit number obtained from WSDA.
- Information on the certificate of veterinary inspection must state the animal has been examined and found to be free from vesicular stomatitis. The inspection must be made within 24 hours of shipment.

The permit number is obtainable from the WSDA Animal Health Program by calling (360) 902-1878.

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses, cattle and swine, and it occasionally affects sheep and goats, according to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Usually non-fatal, it causes blisters or ulcers in and around the mouth or feet. These blisters swell and break, leaving raw tissue so painful that infected animals generally refuse to eat and drink show signs of lameness, according to APHIS. Severe weight loss usually follows. Premises with confirmed cases are quarantined until three weeks after the last lesion heals.

Vesicular stomatitis can be transmitted by insects, contaminated facilities and equipment or the movement of livestock.